

HTML Links

Links are found in nearly all web pages. Links allow users to click their way from page to page.

HTML Links - Hyperlinks

HTML links are hyperlinks.

You can click on a link and jump to another document.

When you move the mouse over a link, the mouse arrow will turn into a little hand.

Note: A link does not have to be text. A link can be an image or any other HTML element!

HTML Links - Syntax

The HTML `<a>` tag defines a hyperlink. It has the following syntax:

```
<a href="url">link text</a>
```

The most important attribute of the `<a>` element is the `href` attribute, which indicates the link's destination.

The *link text* is the part that will be visible to the reader.

Clicking on the link text, will send the reader to the specified URL address.

Example

This example shows how to create a link to W3Schools.com:

```
<a href="https://www.w3schools.com/">Visit W3Schools.com!</a>
```

By default, links will appear as follows in all browsers:

- An unvisited link is underlined and blue
- A visited link is underlined and purple
- An active link is underlined and red

Tip: Links can of course be styled with CSS, to get another look!

HTML Links - The target Attribute

By default, the linked page will be displayed in the current browser window. To change this, you must specify another target for the link.

The `target` attribute specifies where to open the linked document.

The `target` attribute can have one of the following values:

- `_self` - Default. Opens the document in the same window/tab as it was clicked
- `_blank` - Opens the document in a new window or tab
- `_parent` - Opens the document in the parent frame
- `_top` - Opens the document in the full body of the window

Example

Use `target="_blank"` to open the linked document in a new browser window or tab:

```
<a href="https://www.w3schools.com/" target="_blank">Visit W3Schools!</a>
```

Absolute URLs vs. Relative URLs

Both examples above are using an **absolute URL** (a full web address) in the `href` attribute.

A local link (a link to a page within the same website) is specified with a **relative URL** (without the "https://www" part):

Example

```
<h2>Absolute URLs</h2>
```

```
<p><a href="https://www.w3.org/">W3C</a></p>
```

```
<p><a href="https://www.google.com/">Google</a></p>
```

```
<h2>Relative URLs</h2>
```

```
<p><a href="html_images.asp">HTML Images</a></p>
```

```
<p><a href="/css/default.asp">CSS Tutorial</a></p>
```

HTML Links - Use an Image as a Link

To use an image as a link, just put the `` tag inside the `<a>` tag:

Example

```
<a href="default.asp">

</a>
```

Link to an Email Address

Use **mailto:** inside the **href** attribute to create a link that opens the user's email program (to let them send a new email):

Example

```
<a href="mailto:someone@example.com">Send email</a>
```

Button as a Link

To use an HTML button as a link, you have to add some JavaScript code.

JavaScript allows you to specify what happens at certain events, such as a click of a button:

Example

```
<button onclick="document.location='default.asp'">HTML Tutorial</button>
```

Link Titles

The **title** attribute specifies extra information about an element. The information is most often shown as a tooltip text when the mouse moves over the element.

Example

```
<a href="https://www.w3schools.com/html/" title="Go to W3Schools HTML section">Visit
our HTML Tutorial</a>
```

More on Absolute URLs and Relative URLs

Example

Use a full URL to link to a web page:

```
<a href="https://www.w3schools.com/html/default.asp">HTML tutorial</a>
```

Example

Link to a page located in the html folder on the current web site:

```
<a href="/html/default.asp">HTML tutorial</a>
```

Example

Link to a page located in the same folder as the current page:

```
<a href="default.asp">HTML tutorial</a>
```

Chapter Summary

- Use the **<a>** element to define a link
- Use the **href** attribute to define the link address
- Use the **target** attribute to define where to open the linked document
- Use the **** element (inside **<a>**) to use an image as a link
- Use the **mailto:** scheme inside the **href** attribute to create a link that opens the user's email program

HTML Link Tags

Tag	Description
<u><a></u>	Defines a hyperlink